## Message Text

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**ACTION SP-02** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 ABF-01 IGA-01

(ISO)W

.---- 034138

R 051135Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8386

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID TS

SUBJ: PEACE CORPS 1976 BUDGET

REF: A. STATE 14799 B. TUNIS 6774

1. TUNIS RETEL OUTLINED EMBASSY'S REASONS FOR WISHING TO MAINTAIN PEACE CORPS PRESENCE IN TUNISIA AT SOMEWHERE NEAR CURRENT LEVELS, AND WE THEREFORE AGREE ENTIRELY WITH DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS TO DETERMINE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY ACHIEVE SAVINGS WITHOUT LOSS TO FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS. AS INDICATED TUNIS REFTEL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE PROGRAM IN ONE COUNTRY SHOULD BE BEHOLDEN TO PROGRAM IN ANOTHER, AND PARTICULARLY NOT HERE, WHERE TUNISIANS HAVE FAITHFULLY CONTRIBUTED TO SUPPORT OF PROGRAM FOR MANY YEARS.

2. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR ASSESSMENT THAT TUNISIANS WILL AGREE TO INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT FOR PC PROGRAM EITHER IN CASH OR IN KIND, OR BOTH (PARA 1, TUNIS REFTEL). ACCORDINGLY, IN LATE FEBRUARY, PC DIRECTOR FORMALLY AND IN WRITING REQUESTED FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY GOT OF 100 PERCENT INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (40 DINARS TO 80 DINARS), CONTINUED (OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPANDED) USE OF TUNISIAN TRAINING FACILITIES WITH

LODGING PROVIDED AND MEALS OFFERED AT SUBSIDIZED PRICES, AND PARTICIPATION BY TUNISIAN MINISTRY PERSONNEL IN THE TRAINING PROCESS. WE DO NOT YET HAVE AN OFFICIAL REACTION, BUT WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE THAT GOT WILL NOT BE UNSYMPATHETIC ALTHOUGH THEY MAY WELL SUGGEST SCALING OUR PROPOSAL DOWN. THEY WOULD IN ANY CASE HARDLY UNDERSTAND ANY USG MOVE TO PARE DOWN PC ACTIVITIES HERE JUST WHEN THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO UP THEIR ANTE.

3. WE SHALL INFORM DEPT PROMPTLY OF RESULTS OUR EFFORTS. MEANWHILE, WE TRUST THAT NOTHING WILL BE DONE TO REDUCE SIZE AND SCOPE OF PEACE CORPS ACTIVITY HERE BECAUSE OF WORLDWIDE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS WITHOUT FIRST GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AGAIN. SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

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Concepts: BUDGETS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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